

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SNM-02 AID-20 DEAE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

DLOS-07 INT-08 COA-02 IO-14 EURE-00 DRC-01 /179 W

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P R 081630Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3986

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USNATO 3035

USUN 1529

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY EC J-2

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

473 -5/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, LOS, ENGR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: A. ANKARA 3369; B. ATHENS 2672

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1. AT CONCLUSION OF LENGTHY MAY 6 DISCUSSION WITH PRIME

MINISTER ECEVIT ON POPPY PROBLEM (REPORTED SEPTEL), I INQUIRED RE CURRENT STATUS OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED WITH OFT-REPEATED COMPLAINT THAT RPP'S WELL-KNOWN POSITION REGARDING FEDERALISM IN CYPRUS WAS USED AS MANUFACTURES PRETEXT TO BREAK OFF COMMUNAL TALKS.

2. I SAID MY INQUIRE CONCERNED ACROSS-THE-BOARD GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE AEGEAN AS WELL AS CYPRUS SITUATION. REGARDING THE AEGEAN, THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT TURKEY HAS CONSISTENTLY CALLED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS THERE, BUT THAT AFTER CONSIDERABLE TIME, THERE STILL HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FROM GOG. HE THEN REPEATED WELL KNOWN GOT POSITION THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT END UP FORGOING ITS RIGHTS IN THE AREA SIMPLY BECAUSE GOG WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE.

3. PRIME MINISTER THEN TOOK ME OVER TO HIS OFFICE WALL MAP AND POINTED TO THE ISLANDS OF LESBOS. HE SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT AN AMERICAN FIRM, OPERATING UNDER A GREEK LICENSE, HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO CARRY OUT EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES IN THE DISPUTED AREA NEAR THERE. HE HOPED VERY MUCH THIS WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.

4. MFA SEC GEN EREZ TOLD ME ON MAY 8 THAT IT WAS HIS STRONG PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE GREEK DELAY IN ANSWERING THE TURKISH NOTE PROPOSING NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT, AS SOMETIMES ALLEGED, DUE TO CURRENT WEAKNESS OF ROVERNMENT IN ATHENS. RATHER, THE GREEKS WERE CLEARLY DELAYING IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD GAIN FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION AT THE CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. HE TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE THAT GOG POSITION RE ACCESS TO RESOURCES ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO GOT.

5. COMMENT: FONMIN OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US NAME OF FIRM REFERRED TO BY PRIMIN IS CALVIN EXPLORATION COMPANY, WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY STUDIES IN THE DISPUTED ZONE BETWEEN THE ISLAND OF LESBOS AND CHIOS. TURKS THINK FIRM MAY BEGIN TO DRILL IN AREA. (WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY ATHENS OR DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE REGARDING PAST ACTIVITIES OF CALVIN, PARTICULARLY CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT DRILLING RPT DRILLING
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ACTIVITIES.) ACCORDING TO FONMIN OFFICER, PRIMIN RAISED THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO UNDERScore THE FACT THAT THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN EXAMINED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOT, AND TO REITERATE TO US THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH TURKS REGARD ACTIVITIES IN THE DISPUTED ZONE BY COMPANIES OPERATING UNDER GREEK LICENSE (SEE ANKARA 1402).

IN VIEW OF PRIMIN'S STATEMENT AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN REF A, WE FULLY CONCUR WITH EMBASSY ATHENS

SUGGESTION (REF B) REGARDING INFORMAL INITIATIVES BY NATO
SECGEN LUNS AND GENERAL GOODPASTER.
MACOMBER

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NNN

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